



Volume 21

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

December 2012

Issue 12

Counterpoise Editor - Joe Bennett KJ6VMX

Officer and BoD Elections for 2013 Held



The election of Officers and Board of Directors was held at the December 13th General Club Meeting. Elected for the upcoming year were Pat Bunsold (WA6MHZ) for President, Dave Ward (KI6GRN) for Vice-President, Paul Thompson (KJ6BYF) for Secretary and Joseph Matterson (KI6TTF) for Treasurer. Elected to the Board of Directors were Raymond Boisvert (W1CTM), Quinn Lacey (KI6LAT), Peter Krause (KJ6VCM), and Joe Bennett (KJ6VMX). HAM of the Year was also voted on and awarded to Joseph Matterson (KI6TTF) too. Congratulations to all those who will be serving the ARCEC this upcoming year.

This years Christmas Pot Luck was a great success too. The many club members and guests in attendance had a great time, and there was plenty of great food and company to keep us all in a holiday spirit. Thanks go out to [Raymond](#) and [Teresa](#) for helping to put it all together and make it the success it was. Merry Christmas to all and have a safe and happy New Year.

Joe KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



Mystery of the Masthead for November

By Joe -KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

With luck you guessed it. The November masthead was a view from our very own repeater site atop a hill in the Crest area. What a superb site for a repeater (or in our case, THREE repeaters) to be located. But, we are not alone on top of the hill. There are several water tanks, as well as a microwave tower adorned with a number of horn antennas too. Aside from being a prime antenna location that overlooks the majority of San Diego County, the scenery is just beautiful too. The ocean can be seen from the Mexican Boarder to the Mount Soledad area. To the north, Mount Palomar is visible. Our repeaters cover much of the Escondido, Vista, and Oceanside area too. If you have the opportunity to spend some time there on a work party, it is well worth the time and effort to help out, just for the view alone. Thanks to all those who maintain and operate our repeaters, and keep up the excellent work too!!!!

Now, see if you can figure out where this months Masthead was taken, and what it has to do with Amateur Radio. Please feel free to send me your comments at www.counterpoise@wa6bgs.us. Thanks all....



SAN DIEGO, CA:
Store Hours:
10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat
Telephone hours:
9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat
858-560-4928

The WA6MHZ 10 Meter Beacon by Pat - WA6MHZ

Back in the early 80's, I ran a 6 meter beacon from Del Cerro. In it's heyday, it was an Icom IC-551 into a 6 element beam and was heard

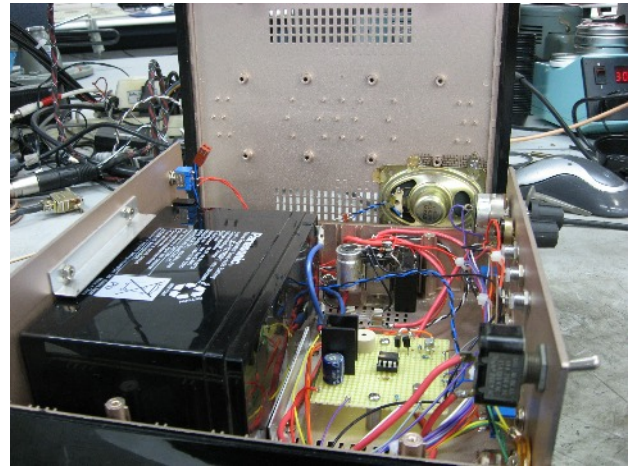


worldwide during the great F2 Sunspot years. I even bought a Commodore PET computer and programmed it up to send Morse Text. It would list all the Station attributes and what and where it was. Worked very well all these years. But then, local 6 meter ops began to



complain about it and I set up a remote receiver allowing them to tone it down for a time period; then it restarted. It was shut down in the late 80's. Time went on and my new house in Crest seemed like an ideal location for a Beacon. Beacons are very important for propagation tools; providing a continuous signal source for local testing and a good indicator of when the band opens up for DX stations. CW is the

desired mode for a beacon. I designed and built a special version of one for the 2008 ARCEC Homebrew contest. That will be detailed here. It ran for a few years, and then was ZAPPED by a lightning strike. The Beacon was rebuilt



and is again on the air 24/7 to this day. You can find it on **28.2785** Mhz. The WA6MHZ beacon uses a Radio Shack HTX-100 transceiver set on the CW mode running about 25W output. I had a Uniden HR-2510 that ran for several years before it burned up. The HTX-100 now has a fan on the heat sink. The



Key to the Beacon is a special IC Chip that is actually a Keyer chip. It also has a beacon mode which I use. The Beacon unit has a built-in 7 AH Gel cel for operation during power failures. The only time it is turned off is when I am in the shack working DX. Sometimes I forget to turn it back on, but

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

within a day I remember. The WA6MHZ beacon has been copied worldwide. I use a Cushcrudd (Cushcraft) 10M Ringo antenna at about 20ft, but I have received reports from as far away as Germany and Netherlands!!! Stateside, it is copied daily from many parts of the country. See the pix of the unit, and you can see how compact yet attractive it is. Just plug a 12V power supply and antenna into it and it is ready to go. Again, if the power goes out,

not a problem. It still runs. IF you tune into it, you will hear "DE WA6MHZ WA6MHZ DM12" or "... / .- -... -- --.. / .- -... -- --.. / -. -- .---- .----". The DM12 is the grid square so folks can figure out where it is located at. All beacons should transmit their grid square.

I probably should make a 6 and 2 meter version, but that is a project for another day.

Grid Square Locations - An Explanation

By Joe - KJ6VMX

Grid squares are a shorthand means of describing your general location anywhere on the Earth in a manner that is easy to communicate over the air. The World is broken up into grid squares measuring 1° latitude by 2° longitude, or approximately 70 x 100 miles in the continental United States. A grid square is indicated by two letters (the field), and two numbers (the square). An example would be DM12 which is the grid square that WA6MHZ is located within. Each sub square is designated by the addition of two letters after the grid square, as in DM12nt. This more precise locator is used as part of the exchange in many of the current contests, and is a measure indicating a square of 2.5 minutes latitude by 5 minutes longitude, or roughly equal to 3 x 4 miles in the continental United States.

An excellent link for grid lookup and more information can be found here:

http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php



ARCEC Radio Nets -Part #1

By Joe - KJ6VMX

**All nets are on the club repeaters on 2M, 220, and 440 mhz
(See frequencies on front page)**

Monday Night Donut Net

Net Control is: Axel - KI6RRN

Start time: Early Check in ~7:45 PST

What goes on there?

For just over 4 years now Axel has operated the Donut Net using the same basic format. Typically there is a “How’s your day” round where each person checking in can tell the group how things have been going for them, and how they are doing. Often, Axel will also ask specific questions, more often than not relating to food. This, many times, helps stimulate some lively comments and opinion exchange. Next is usually a trivia round that is very wide ranging in its topics. You never know what Axel will come up with, and you can depend on it being interesting and educational. Lastly, there is the “73” round that allows each net member to make any final comments as well as to say 73 to the others on the air. The Donut Net is very often host to some lively conversation and comments, and can be depended upon to provide a worthwhile chance to have fun and learn a thing or two as well. Your time would be well spent visiting and participating in the weekly Donut Net.

Tuesday Night Wide Open Frito Net

Net Control is Frito - W6WKB

Start time: Early Check-in:~7:45 PST

What goes on there?

Frito runs an interesting blend of subjects on this Tuesday Net. Started around January of 2003 Frito has become a staple on air fixture with his great humor and interesting blend of subjects. Food is a big part of the conversations with everything from how NOT to water jalapeno’s, to just how much he likes Bushes Baked Beans. As with most Nets, Frito usually starts out with a “How’s your day” round, and maybe a “What did you have for dinner” question too. Things very often veer off from there and almost anything can become the hot topic amongst the diverse group of Net attendees. You also have the “73” round too. So, if you like humor and sometimes strange conversation, spend some time with Frito on Tuesday nights. Your funny bone will thank you for it.

ARCEC Radio Nets -Part #2**By Joe - KJ6VMX****All nets are on the club repeaters on 2M, 220, and 440 mhz
(See frequencies on front page)****Wednesday Night WAMO! Net**

Net Control is: Daniel - KJ6IOB

Start time: Check in ~8:00 PST

What goes on there?

The Wednesday Night WAMO! Net is formatted like many other Nets, a welcome round that allows you to let others know how you are doing, as well as a buy/sell/trade opportunity, AND you can work other WAMO! members too. WAMO! means "Work ALL Members Once", and is an opportunity to earn credits towards the award of a certificate that shows how well you are doing in obtaining contacts with other club members. Full rules are available on the club web site at www.wa6bgs.us that gives all the details. Daniel also has several trivia questions, usually centered around the Extra Class license exam. These are pretty challenging, and are based on the current question pool from the FCC Extra exam. These always make my brain hurt, but in a good way ☺. Daniel will be leaving as Net Control after the New Year, and will be missed, but has indicated that he will be available as a substitute in the future. Thanks for operating a great Net Daniel, and 73. As of this time, a permanent Net Control has not been selected, hint, hint.

Thursday Night 10 Meter/2 Meter Frito Net

Net Control is Frito - N6WKB

Start time:~Check-in:~7:00 PST

What goes on there?

Frito also runs a DX Net on 10 Meters at 28.435 MHZ USB. The Net begins here, and if the band is open, those who check in are given the opportunity to contact any DX contacts being made at the time. Often there are several distant stations responding to the Net, and you can make some great contacts for your log. If there are no long distant contacts, you can see how well other local area stations can receive your station on the frequency. Often it is harder to communicate locally than to contact distant stations, so a 20 mile contact is very satisfying too on 10 Meters. If there are no DX contacts to be made, Frito usually moves the Net over to the club repeater on 2 Meters, and continues the Net there. This Net is loads of fun as it helps hone skills needed on operating more efficiently on HF, and helps also to keep equipment tuned and ready for communications. Well worth joining on 10 Meters as well as 2 Meters too. All thanks to Frito, and the home of the densest antenna forest in east San Diego.

ARCEC Radio Nets -Part #3**By Joe - KJ6VMX****All nets are on the club repeaters on 2M, 220, and 440 mhz
(See frequencies on front page)****Saturday Night WAMO! Net**

Net Controls are: Heather - KJ6GOO & Margaret - KJ6BFT

Start time: Early Check in ~7:45 PST

What goes on there?

Heather (11) and Margaret (13) operate the Saturday Night WAMO! Net much like other Nets, starting with the first “How’s your day” round where you can also have a buy/sell/trade opportunity and be able to work any WAMO! contacts you might wish to add to your log towards gaining a certificate or endorsements. There are usually club officer announcements, as well as any other attendee announcements or comments that may be offered. There is also the “73” round for that goodbye to everyone out there. In the past, the Saturday Net has also been operated from remote sites that allow people to come out and see how it is done, and to meet Heather and Margaret in the field. The Saturday Net is always a fun time, and helps bring all generations of HAMS together on the air. These ladies are a class act, and run their Net in a very professional manner, I always have a great time participating, and look forward to more remote site Nets, and the many new and innovative technologies being introduced on the Saturday Night WAMO! Net. Look for some really new things to happen very soon.

See you on the Nets soon!!!

Joe - KJ6VMX

Typical Net Rules and Protocol

All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome. You do NOT need to be a club members to participate in the club Nets. To join a Net, just listen for the Net Control to request check-ins and typically you would then announce your call, then your first name. That’s it! The Net Control will shortly announce your call and name indicating you have been added to the Net attendee list. Now all you need to do is listen to what’s going on and response when its your turn, and just have fun! Hope to hear you on the Nets.

Most of the Nets also allow the attendees (if you are a member of ARCEC) to gather points towards awards and prizes. Typically you would be given 1 point for each Net you check into and stay until it closes. Early check out would get you only ½ point so it is worth it to stay for the entire Net. More information about points and awards can be found on the club web site at <http://wa6bgs.us/saturday-night-club-net> if you’re interested. Have fun!!

A few memories from 2012



**Pat (WA6MHZ), Daniel (KJ6IOB), and Tom (W5COM)
Homebrew winners 2012**



Joe (KJ6VMX) receiving Certificate of Appreciation for donations to ARCEC.



220 repeater being removed for replacement during Crest site visit.



Cell tower atop hill in Crest.

Field day 2012

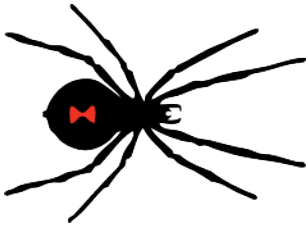
Tower trailer being prepped for use at the field day site at Santee Lakes. This event was such a great success that the club will be holding the 2013 field day at the same site this coming June. Look for details, and be sure to volunteer to help out and make this one even better.



More memories of 2012



Crest Museum



Pats (WA6MHZ)

Nemesis



WAMO! Girls Heather (KJ6GOO) & Margaret (KJ6BFT) on remote Saturday Night Net at Fred's in El Cajon. Keep up the GREAT work Ladies.



Boy Scouts Radio Merit Badge Training.



**2 meters & 440 MHZ
In Imperial Beach
(Yagi pointed right at Crest repeaters)**



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Club Nets

Day	Time	Name	Description	Net Control	Repeater
Sunday					
Monday	7:00 pm	Donut Net	Trivia & general interest questions	KI6RRN Axel	ARCEC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Wide Open Net	Almost anything goes with Frito	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Wednesday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	WAMO contacts, roundtable, buy-sell, swap, 73 round	KJ6IOB Daniel	ARCEC
Thursday	7:00 pm	Fritos 10 Meter Net	Starts on 10M and moves to 2M	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Friday					
Saturday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	Roundtable, sell-buy-swap, club news, 73 round	KJ6BFT Margaret KJ6GOO Heather	ARCEC

Work All Members Once



WA6BGS web site - interesting happenings

Joseph (KI6UPY) has been very productive in working on the club web site. Many changes and additions have been made, so a visit would be well worth it to catch up on what is going on there. See what some hard work on behalf of the club has done. Thanks UPY.

Check out the important club related documents, minutes, reports, and other vital information available to all members of ARCEC.

See what's coming up in 2013 and get ready for some great events. Your participation is requested.

All this and more at www.wa6bgs.us TODAY!!!!

Contact Information:

Web Site: www.wa6bgs.us

President: president@wa6bgs.us

Vice President: vicepresident@wa6bgs.us

Secretary: secretary@wa6bgs.us

Treasurer: treasurer@wa6bgs.us

Counterpoise: counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

Club Phone number is **619-663-6011**

Monthly Amateur Radio License Exam

1st Saturday of the Month Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc.

El Cajon First Lutheran Church, 867 South Lincoln, El Cajon, CA 92020 9 :00 AM

Contact Gereld N. Madsen - Jerry KI6PLH, (619) 766-9177 (walk-ins welcome).

How to find the exam site

From the West: Take I-8 East, Exit El Cajon Blvd/Chase Ave. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Chase Avenue. Go about 1.5 miles to South Lincoln Avenue. Lincoln will be 1 block after Avocado Drive. Turn left on South Lincoln. We are 2 blocks up on the right.

From the East: Take I-8 West, Exit Mollison Avenue. Go South on Mollison about 2 miles to Washington. Turn right on Washington. Go 1 block and turn left on South Lincoln. We are 1 block up on the left.

Important!! Get your free FRN ID from the FCC

Be sure to visit the FCC web site and obtain your FRN identification prior to coming to take your exam. You will need it to show you have registered with the FCC, and so that we can send your exam results to them for processing and licensing.

Santee Swap Meet First Saturday of each month

Santee Electronics Swap Meet is the first Saturday of each month at Santee Drive-In east side of Highway 67, South of Riverford Rd. in Santee, CA Starting at 6:30 AM, talk-in 146.520, Buyers \$1.00 Find out more information at EL Cajon ARC website at www.WA6BGS.US. Club stall is open for buyers/sellers from 6:30 am until 9 am. Please feel free to bring your own Ham related items to sell at the Club stall. Just remember that you must stay with your items until they sell, or take them with you when you leave,. Many thanks to N6JOJ (Tom) for his fine work.

Notice of Disclaimer

All companies mentioned in the Counterpoise are done as a courtesy and a convenience to both the membership and the company. No compensation has been solicited and none has been accepted, and no endorsement has been made.

Joe - KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

Health and Welfare Information

Tom (N6JOJ) is progressing nicely, and last I heard was up to 2.9 miles on his walks. Good going Tom. We will be looking for you on the Nets and at the swap meet again soon.

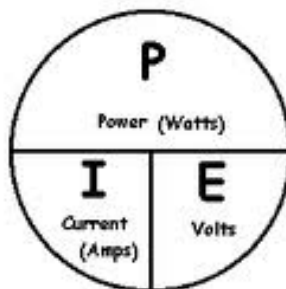
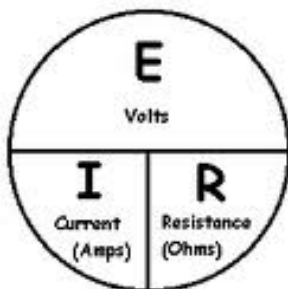
$$\frac{--- \cdot --- --- - \cdot \cdot}{\dots \cdot - \cdot \cdot \cdot - \dots} / \frac{\cdot - - \cdot \cdot \cdot}{\dots \cdot - \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot} / \frac{\cdot -}{--- \cdot \cdot \cdot - \cdot -} / \frac{- \cdot \cdot \cdot -}{- \cdot \cdot \cdot -} /$$

$$\frac{- \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot}{- \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot} / \frac{- \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot}{- \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot}$$

Frito (N6WKB) is back home & recovering from having a pace maker installed. With the great care from his XYL he should be back on the Nets again soon.

[illegible]

Ohm's Law



WILLY'S ELECTRONIC
SUPPLY COMPANY, INC.
EST. 1965

California
ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

Willy's Electronic Supply - National City
1636 D Avenue
National City, CA 91950
Ph: 619-477-2119 / FAX 619-477-2789
Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 6:00PM, PST

Willy's Electronic Supply - San Diego
4925 Mercury St
San Diego, CA 92111
Ph: 858-279-5800 FAX 858-279-5850
Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM, PST

**California Electronics & Industrial
Supply
221 N Johnson Ave
El Cajon, CA 92020**

Hours:
Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sun 12 pm - 4 pm

2013 Arizona State Convention

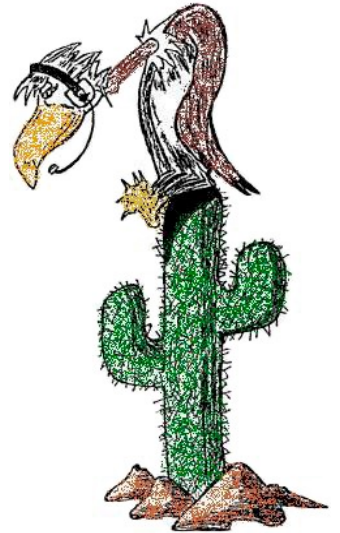
9th Annual

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 15 & 16, 2013

Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona



www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information
and a Current Schedule of Activities and Seminars

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Buzzard BBQ & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
---	---	--

**Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Famous Buzzard BBQ
ARRL Speaker
\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
Antenna Clinic & T-Hunt**

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: *info@yumahamfest.org*



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio
Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of
our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio
Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

Counterpoise Submissions Requested

The Counterpoise is always looking for story ideas and submissions, pictures, and upcoming news articles. You can submit by sending your content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us in WORD or PDF format. Photos can be sent in JPG, GIF, or most any other popular formats as well. You can also use the convenient form available on the club web site at www.wa6bgs.us too. Deadline is typically 7 days after the General Membership meeting, usually held on the second Thursday of each month. All members are urged to help out the Counterpoise and keep it active and entertaining. Hope to see your submissions soon!!

MURPHYS SURPLUS WAREHOUSE

LOCATED AT 401 N. JOHNSON AVE:

EL CAJON, CA. 92020

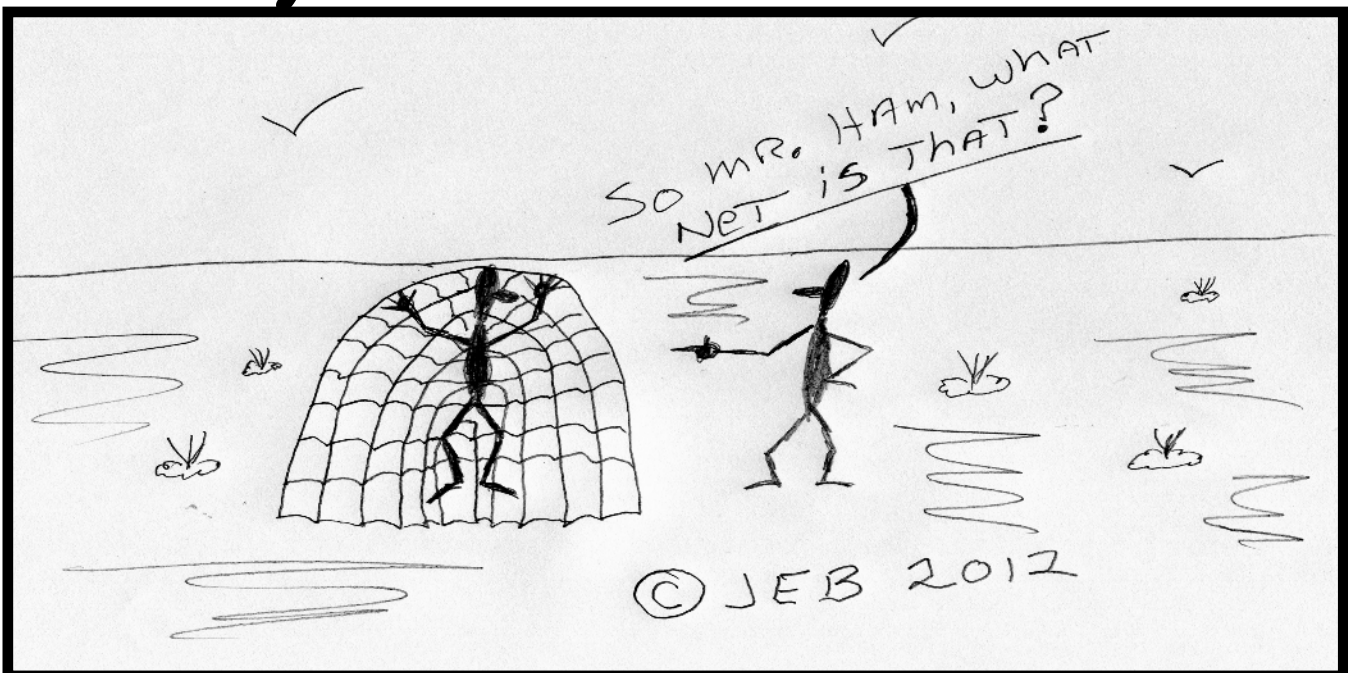
(NEAR SAN DIEGO) 619 444 7717

FAX 444 6750 EMAIL murphy@cts.com

HOURS MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

9 AM TO 5

Harvey Hairbuckle-Ham Extroidinaire





The AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON^{Inc.}
WA6BGS Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022
 Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and see the options at the bottom for Submitting options

Date of Application: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____ ☐ Cash or ☐ Check Check #: _____

Membership Type: ☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family (\$35)
 Membership Status: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member
 Call Sign: First Name: Last Name: WAMO # (If renewing or returning):

ARRL Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 License Class: ☐ Technician ☐ General ☐ Extra ☐ Other:
 Address: City: State: Zip: PO Box:

Email ID: Phone: _____

Would you like a member badge? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Add Additional Members Here (Family Package):

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	Wamo #	Badge
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>

Submitting This Form

To submit this form mail it to P.O. Box 50 El Cajon, 92022

-OR-

Bring to the next club meeting or go to www.wa6bgs.us and join on line (click on Club info / Join)

Cash Payments - Get a Receipt from the Club Treasurer. Make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with FCC Call Signs are Full Members with voting privileges, Members without FCC Call Signs are Associate members without voting privileges

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. is a 501(c)(7) Corporation. Donations are NOT tax Deductable.